

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 11 as follows. Please cancel Claims 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving scene classification of a sequence of digital images comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a sequence of images captured in temporal succession, at least two pairs of consecutive images in the sequence of images having different elapsed times between their capture;

(b) classifying each of the images individually based on information contained in the individual image to generate ~~a first~~ an initial image classification for each of the images; and

(c) imposing a pre-determined temporal context model on the sequence of images to generate a ~~final~~ revised image classification for each image, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model considers the temporal succession of the sequence of images.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information used in step (b) includes pixel information.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the information used in step (b) includes capture-device-generated metadata information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pre-determined temporal context model in step (c) is independent of elapsed time between consecutive ~~images~~ images.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pre-determined temporal context model in step (c) is dependent on elapsed time between consecutive ~~images~~ images.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pre- determined temporal context model is a causal Hidden Markov Model dependent on ~~the~~ a previous image.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pre- determined temporal context model is a non-casual model dependent on both ~~the~~ a previous image and a subsequent ~~images~~ image.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temporal context model is imposed using Viterbi algorithm.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temporal context model is imposed using ~~the~~ a belief propagation algorithm.